

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

MISSION STATEMENT

Make Virginia a better place in which to work, live and conduct business. We will achieve this goal by promoting safe, healthful workplaces, best employment practices, job training opportunities through registered apprenticeship, the protection of children from hazardous employment, and safe operation of boiler and pressure vessel devices.

BACKGROUND

To make Virginia a safe, healthy and productive place to work, DOLI provides a broad range of programs to employers and workers: We administer and enforce the Commonwealth's occupational safety and health programs; payment of wage statute, right-to-work and child labor laws; carry out worker apprenticeship programs; and certify the safe operation of commercial boilers and pressure vessels.

REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP

DOLI provides workers with job training opportunities for lifelong skills and helps employers meet their needs for highly skilled workers through a proven, cost-effective system of registered apprenticeship. This statewide program trains employees in a wide range of skills and knowledge areas. We help employers develop training programs and recruit qualified apprentices. Employers provide on-the-job training, and participants spend 4-6 hours per week in related classroom instruction.

BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL SAFETY

This inspection and certification program promotes safety for all Virginians by overseeing regular inspections of boilers and pressure vessels in workplaces, apartments and establishments open to the public under the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act. Our oversight of installation, operation, maintenance and repair of these vessels and certification of both the vessels and the inspectors assure the safe operation of these powerful systems.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

The Virginia Labor and Employment Law Division administers and enforces state laws governing payment of wages, minimum wage, child labor, the right to work and certain other provisions related to the workplace. Working whenever possible through mediation, we seek to help businesses and employees resolve disputes and return to work.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH COMPLIANCE

Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Compliance effectively carries out regulations governing employers in the Commonwealth. Virginia's

safety and health laws regulate all public and private sector commercial and industrial establishments, construction, logging, demolition and excavation. VOSH also issues permits for lead and asbestos abatement projects and administers the laws affecting emission of these pollutants. Through worksite inspections, compliance assistance and by responding to employee complaints of unsafe conditions, we ensure safer workplaces for Virginians.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

The Office of Cooperative Programs provides communication services for the agency and consists of the following programs:

Consultation Services

To help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH Standards, DOLI provides free, on-site consultation services without issuing citations or penalties. This program helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards through an agreement between the employer and Consultation Services. Assistance in developing an effective safety and health program for the employer is also provided. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees. Consultation Services also conducts a variety of occupational safety and health training sessions throughout the state. Each year, DOLI holds an annual Occupational Safety and Health Conference to provide affordable, quality safety and health training for employers, employees and safety and health professionals.

Research and Analysis

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, conducted in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor, produces estimated injury and illness rates by industry for Virginia. The Survey is a statistically valid sampling of incidents reported by Virginia employers from the OSHA Form 300 and is published annually in December following the collection year. The annual Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, also conducted in cooperation with the BLS, provides a detailed report on all workplace fatalities in Virginia.

Voluntary Protection Programs

DOLI offers two voluntary protection programs to promote and recognition exceptional safety and health programs - The Virginia Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) for large businesses and the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) for small, high-hazard businesses of 250 or fewer employees. Management, employees and VOSH establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that have implemented strong programs. VOSH verifies the programs meet VPP criteria, publicly recognizes these workplaces and removes them from the routine inspection lists.